ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT: Before we begin regular work regarding the voting of grants, I have to announce to the House the result of the election which took place on Friday evening.

For the Standing Finance Committee
Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan, and
Mr. K. C. Karunakaran

top the list. Therefore both of them will be declared elected to the Standing Finance Committee from this House.

And, as regards the Public Accounts Committee,
Mr. K. C. Abraham and
Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai

top the list. I therefore declare these two gentlemen duly elected to the Public Accounts Committee.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(*contd*)

DEMAND IX—FORESTS.—(*contd.*)

Motion No. 550.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion;

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,35,000 for Conservancy and Works by Re. 1.

Sir, my object is to discuss the desirability of laying open some land within reserve forests for registry. Sir, Travancore has a third of its area under reserved forests, the total area of our forests being 2,397 sq. miles. It is therefore clear that there will be a large area within these reserved forests fit for paddy cultivation. It is very desirable to throw open as much suitable lands as possible out of these reserves for cultivation. Travancore does not now grow all the paddy that is required for home consumption, and a large quantity of paddy is being imported into the country every year. It is therefore now absolutely necessary that more area is thrown open for paddy cultivation. I know the Conservator will say that the land still available within the reserves is grassy land and not suited for paddy cultivation. But, the people are prepared to take the risk. Then, why not throw open more land for cultivation? The Conservator may argue that, if timber-clad hills are destroyed, it will adversely affect our monsoon and weather conditions. There may be some truth in that statement, Sir. But, considering the fact that nearly one-third of our total area is included in the reserves, I daresay there is possibility of throwing open more land for cultivation without prejudice to our monsoon or to the interests of our forest produce. It is certainly the duty of the Government, any way, to investigate the question. It is not quite safe, in this matter especially, to give too much weight to the words of the Conservator. His is certainly not the last word on the subject. I would

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